



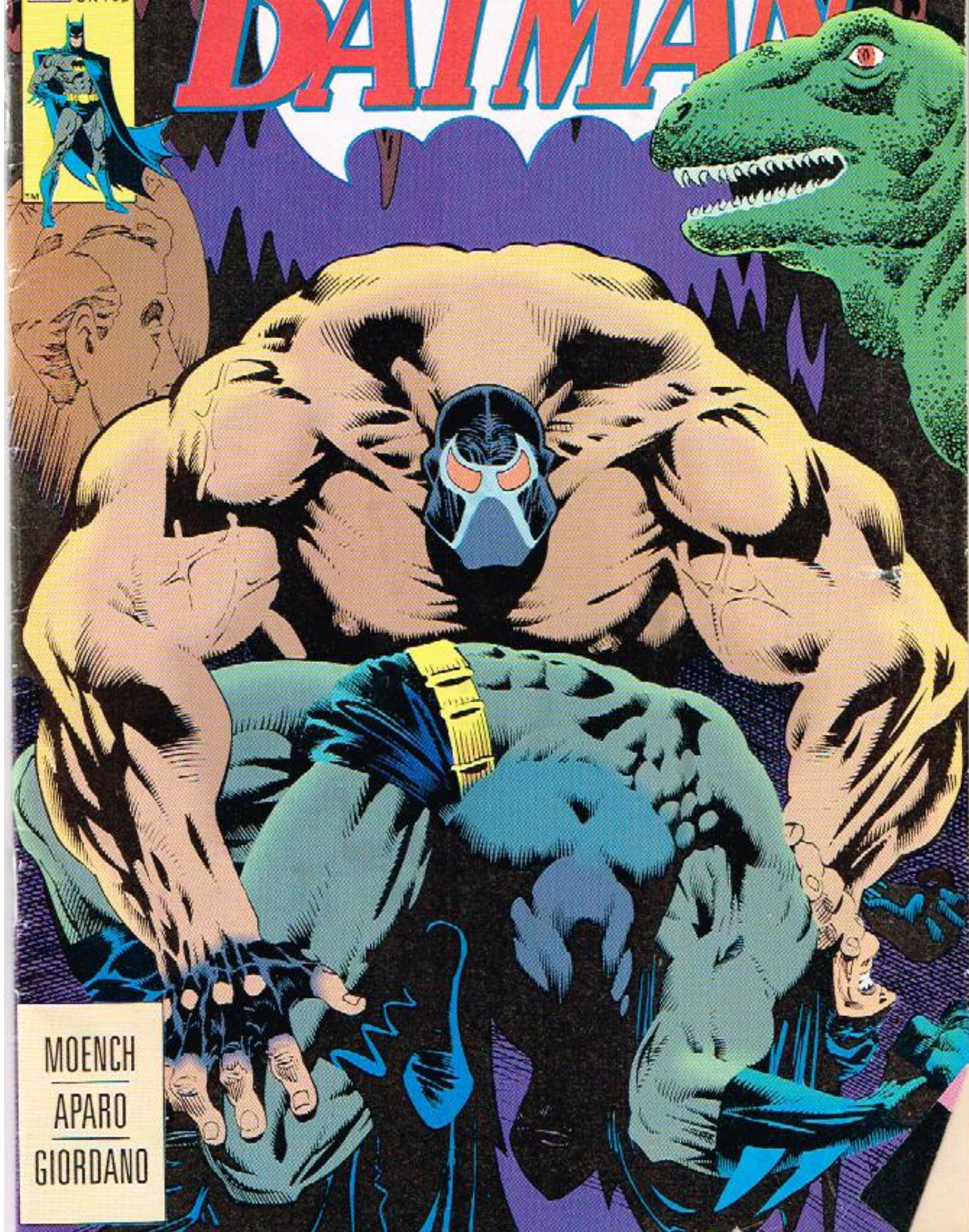
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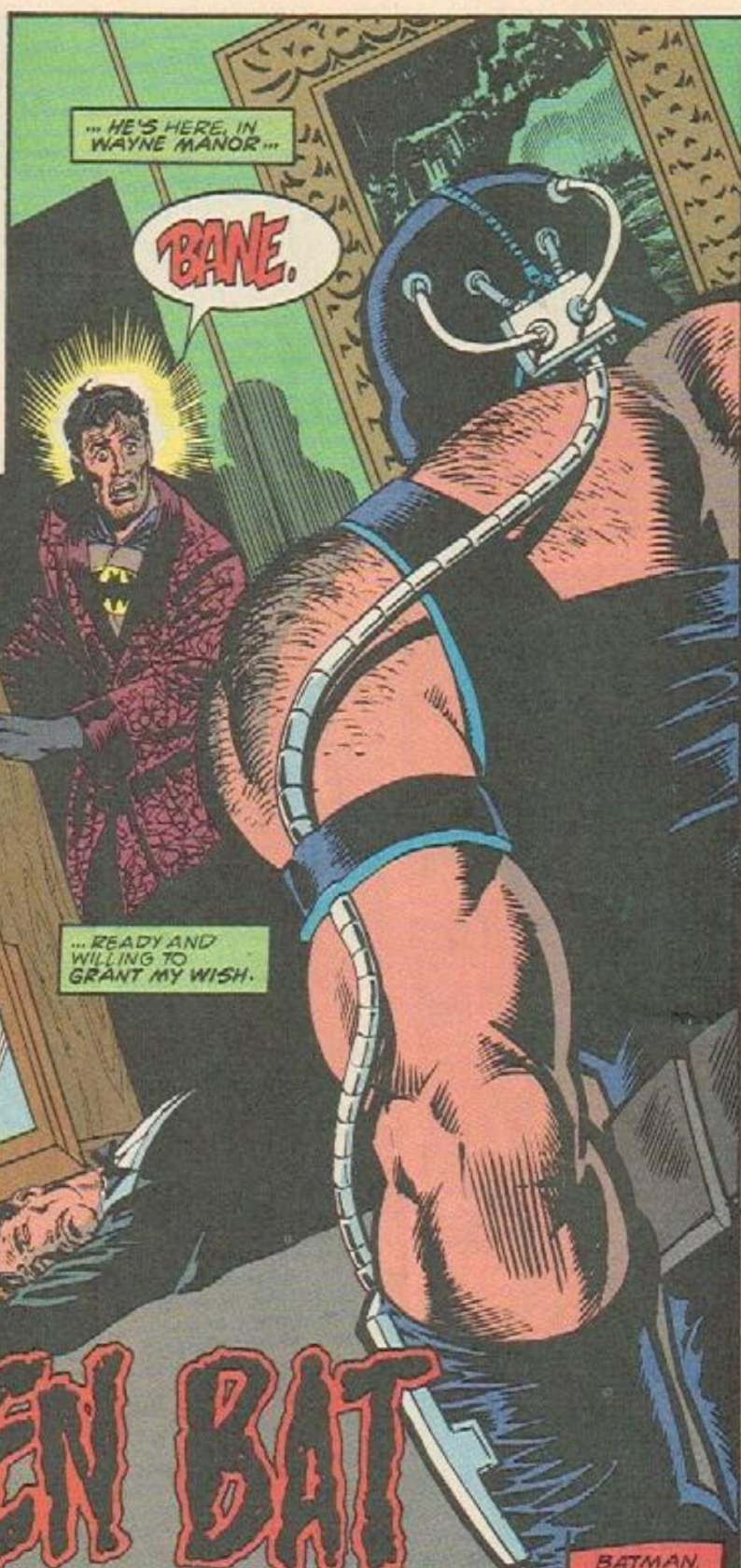
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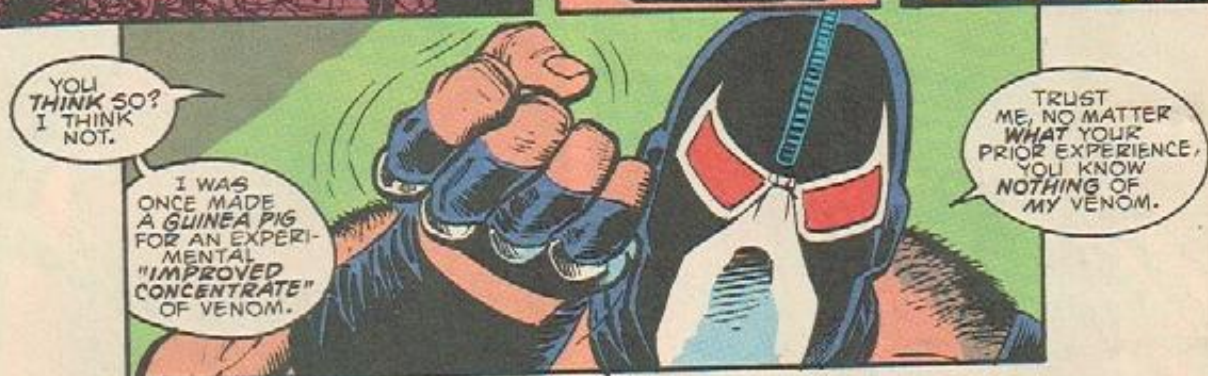
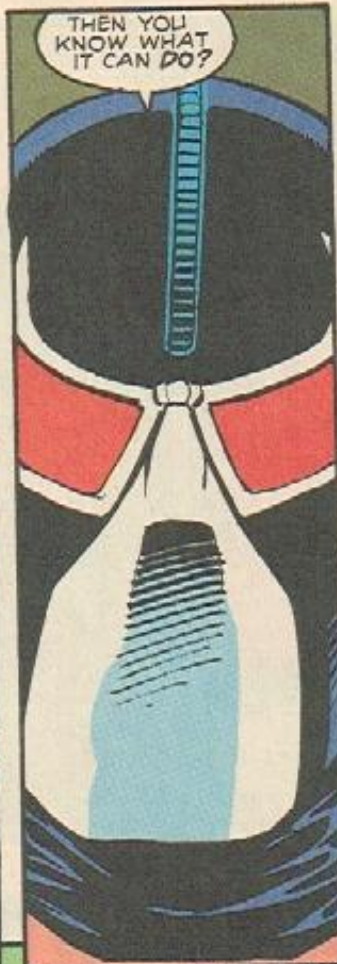
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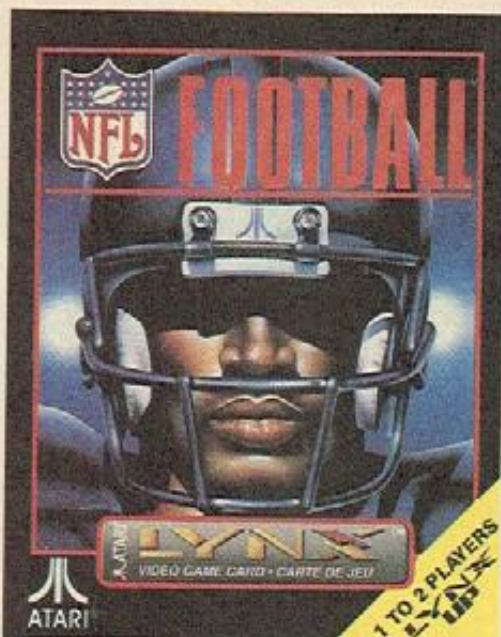
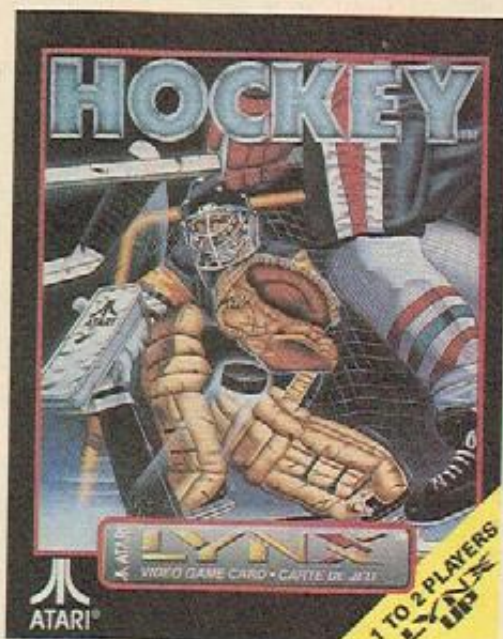
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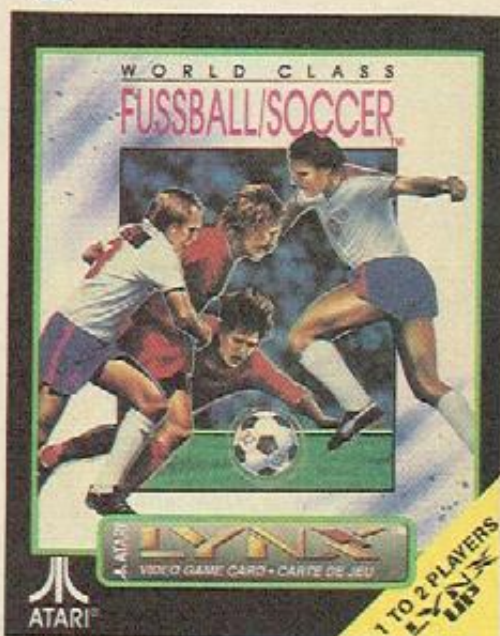




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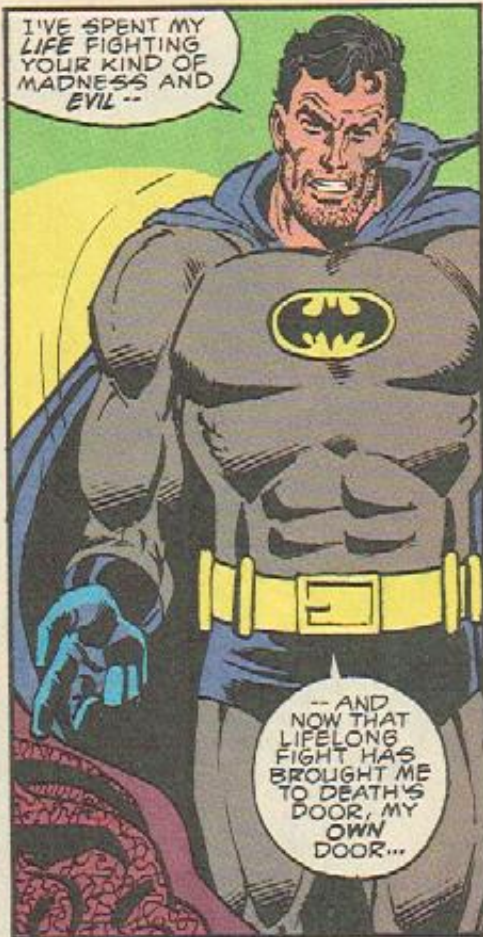


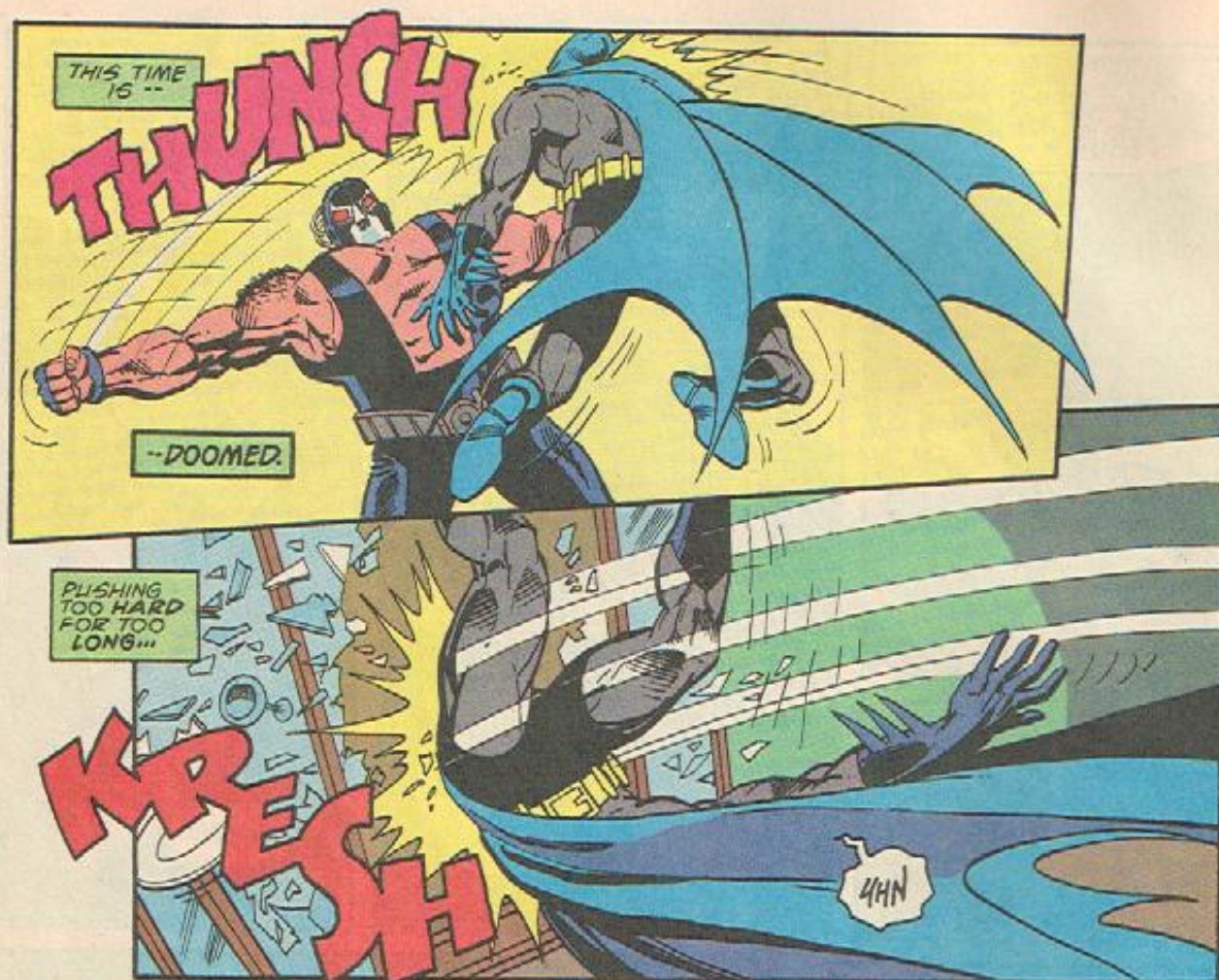
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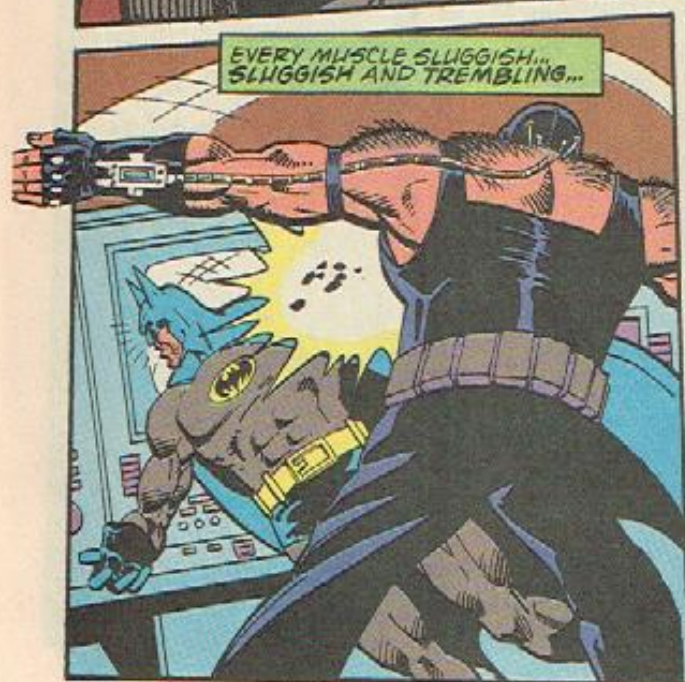
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BLOOD LINES







A LEGION OF CRAZED
KILLERS LOOSED ON
GOTHAM... TOO MANY
AND TOO MUCH TO
FIGHT...

IT IS
OVER.

YOU
ARE
NOTHING.

... THE TOLL TOO
GREAT, PRIDE
NO LONGER AN
ASSET...
ONLY PRELUDE
TO A FALL...



... LEAVING
ME DRAINED
AND DEPLETED...

A
DISAPPOINT-
MENT!

... LITTERLY
EMPTY.



BUT STILL
THEY LOOMED
AND LINGED
FROM THE
DARK...

... LAUGHING
DEMONS
WITH BAD
INTENT...



... BEARING
PAIN AND
NOTHING
MORE...

... CHIPPING
AWAY AT
WHATEVER
WAS LEFT...

SHOMP

WUMP



... WEARING
ME DOWN
TOWARD
NOTHING...

BRING
BRING



STILL
NOT
HOME...

... EVEN
AT
NIGHT.

DR. SHONDRA KINS



... AND
NOWHERE.

Klwox



VERTIGO...
WHIRLING OUT
OF CONTROL
NOW... TIME
DISTORTED...
IMAGES
FLASHING...

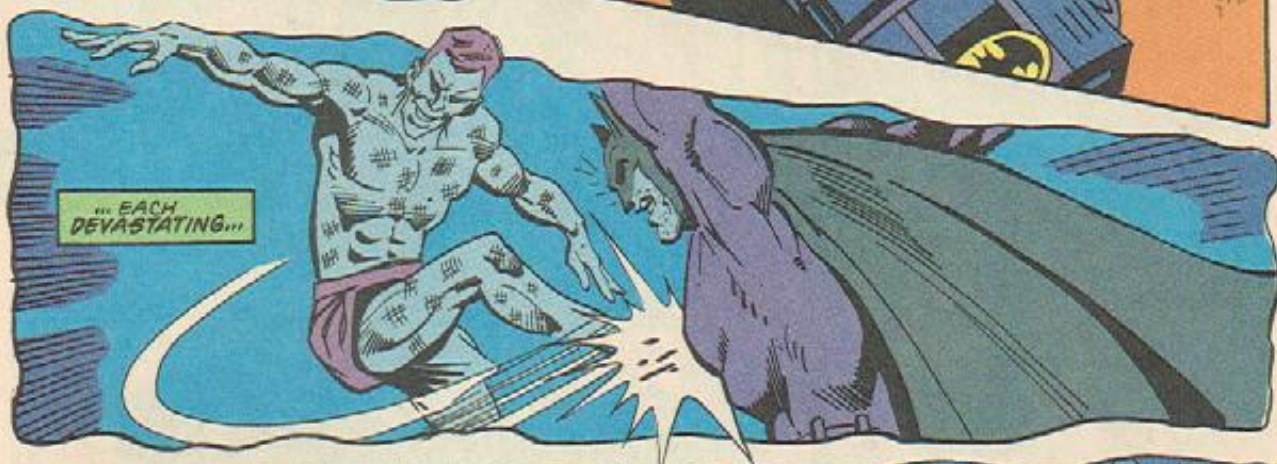
... THEN
AND NOW A
CONFUSED
BLUR...



WHY
DON'T
YOU
FIGHT?!

BAMP

... EVERY
SHOCK AND
CONCUSSION
THE SAME...

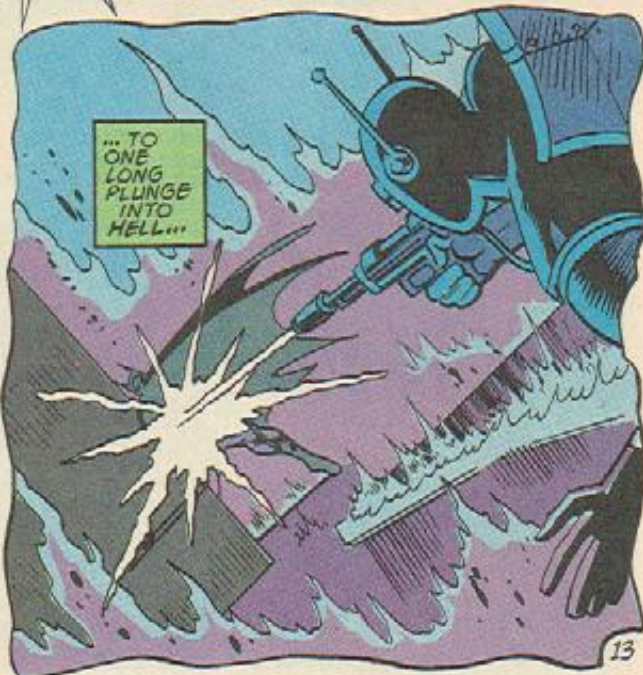


... EACH
DEVASTATING...

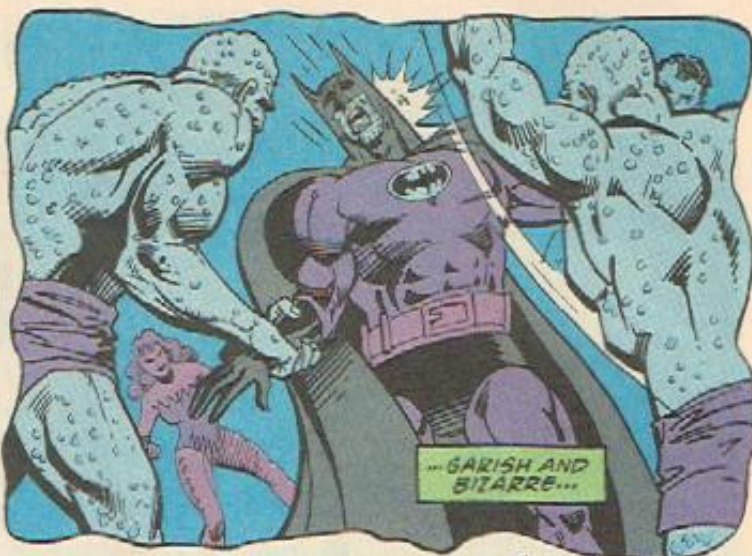


... AND ALL
ADDING UP...

PRAK



... TO
ONE
LONG
PLUNGE
INTO
HELL...



... BUT IT WAS BANE'S
BLOODY HAND BEHIND
THEM, BEHIND IT ALL.

CHOOOF

BANE FROM THE BEGINNING --
AND BANE NOW, AT THE END.

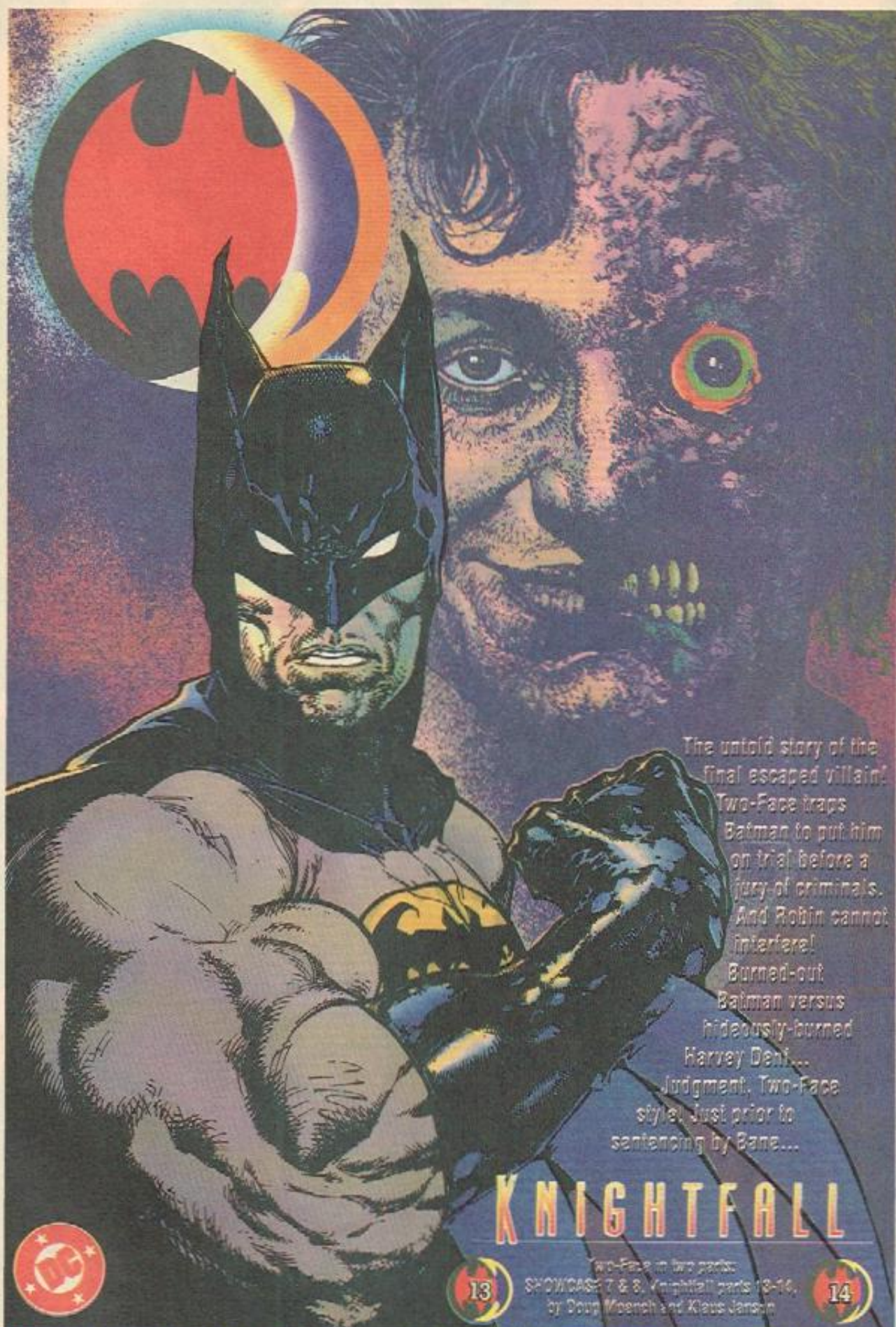
KESHH

NO... CAN'T GIVE IN,
NOT NOW, NO MATTER
HOW HURT... CAN'T
LET HIM WIN...

CAN'T SURRENDER
TO THE BLESSED
RELIEF... OF ENDING
IT ALL.

JASON...
ROBIN...





The untold story of the
final escaped villain!
Two-Face traps
Batman to put him
on trial before a
jury of criminals.
And Robin cannot
interfere!
Burned-out
Batman versus
hideously-burned
Harvey Dent...
Judgment, Two-Face
style! Just prior to
sentencing by Bane...

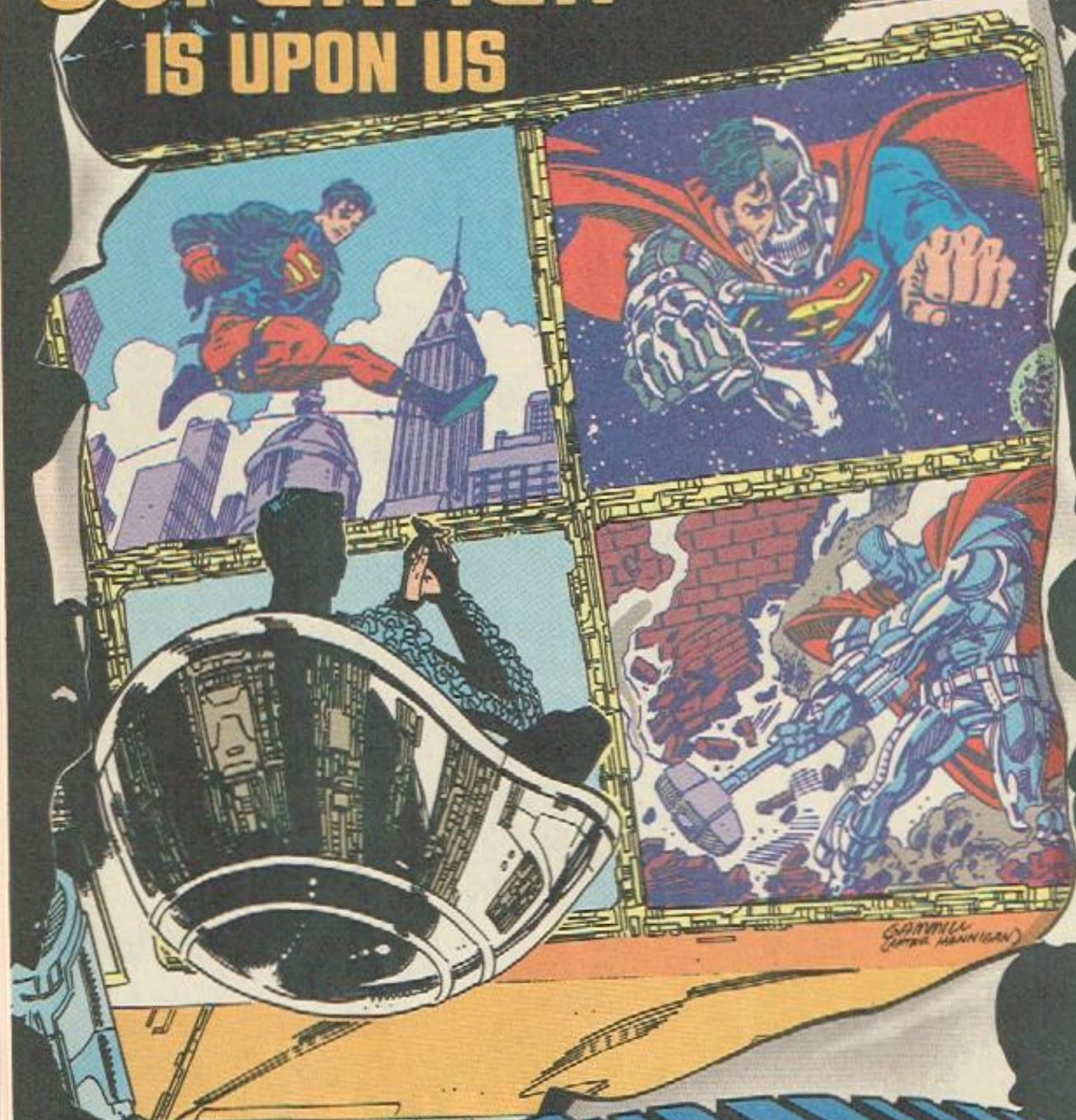
KNIGHTFALL

Two-Face in two parts:
SHOWCASE 7 & 8, Knightfall parts 13-14,
by Doug Moench and Klaus Janson

KNIGHTFALL unfolds in BATMAN 492-500 • DETECTIVE COMICS 659-666 • SHOWCASE '93 7-8 • SHADOW OF THE BAT 16-18

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REIGN OF THE
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IS UPON US



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JOHN MANNING



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IN ACTION COMICS
#689







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BANE --
AND I COULD
KILL YOU...

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WOULD ONLY
END YOUR
AGONY -- AND
SILENCE
YOUR SHAME.

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I WILL
SIMPLY...

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*Some big problems
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Ain't nothing like the real thing! It may be the real Atom, Ray Palmer, but the things that are happening in his life seem far from possibly being real!

The Atom returns to the mainstream in the wildest ride of his career! He's losing control of his life, of his powers, and of himself. Years of shrinking and growing have played havoc with his mind as scenes of his tormented past begin to manifest themselves as deadly visions.

As if that weren't enough, his friend Professor Hyatt lies on a hospital bed, with a clock-shaped time bomb attached to his face. It looks like the work of The Atom's archenemy Chronos!

Unfortunately for Hyatt and The Atom, Chronos also lies in a hospital comatose! It's solely up to The Atom to search for the key to save both men. And the key lies within himself!

With Hyatt and Chronos likely to die, can The Atom trust his own powers enough to stop the torment? Or will the curse of his errant powers doom him to these visions forever?!

**THE
MAN IS
BACK!**
or is he?



DC BULLETS

✦ O.K., so we're holding out on you! As of last November talks started on **LOBO: THE MOVIE!** Although nothing is official yet, if the Main Man's following continues to grow, it's only a matter of time before our chain-slinging Czarnian winds up on the silver screen!



✦ Valentine's Day this year was a special one for **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES** penciller Stuart Immonen and his wife Katherine. On February 14th, Katherine gave birth to **Conner Jones Immonen**. Conner has the super-ability to wake up crying just as mommy and daddy fall asleep. This qualifies him as the youngest Legionnaire.

✦ School of Visual Arts alumni Phil Jimenez returned as guest speaker to Klaus Janson's art class. Phil was once a student in Klaus's class and said, "It was fun to motivate kids to live life their own way."

✦ Dan Jurgens and his wife Ann added another baby boy to their growing ranks. On March 21st, **Quinn Merrill Jurgens** took his first breath of air. Quinn's first words, "You killed who, Daddy?!" Daddy Dan has a lot of explaining to do!

Does the Atom have trouble getting on amusement park rides because of the "You must be this high" rule?

...BREAK YOU!







BAT-SIGNALS

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DON'T STOP NOW! KNIGHTFALL CONTINUES IN DETECTIVE COMICS #664, IN TWO WEEKS!

Wow.

Believe it or not, you have not even seen the main event yet! However, before I move on to what is ahead, let us read your comments on the issue where "Knightfall" began:

Dear Bat-Signals,

The cover of BATMAN #491 by Kelley Jones was excellent! Keep 'em coming! The story by Doug Moench was great! It was suspenseful and gripping. Jim Aparo's art was awesome. I would like to see some of the top inkers take a crack at Aparo's art. I am very excited about the "Knightfall" storyline. If it is everything I hope it will be, Batman will be #1 in comics! Long live Batman!

Scott Bligh
Mountain View, CA

Way to call 'em as ya see 'em, Scott!



Dear Denny and Jordan,

BATMAN #491, the prelude to your "Knightfall" epic, was a terrific kick-off to what is sure to be a great storyline. In fact, the relentless action and pacing of this issue reminded me of the movies of James Cameron—high praise indeed! I loved the way Doug Moench closed the issue with Bane's chilling comment, made as he observed Batman's anguish over the impossible situation he—Batman—is now in: "If I didn't want his blood so badly...I would almost pity him." And that was just one great moment in an issue full of such moments.

Okay, now for the down-side. You realize, of course, that after freeing every inmate from Arkham Asylum in

one mind-boggling jailbreak, we're never again going to simply settle for just the usual villain of the month breaking out of Arkham to wreak havoc story! Whatever are you going to do?

Joe Menta, Jr.
Philadelphia, PA

Does the issue you hold in your hands answer your question? Ha HA! And wait 'til you see BATMAN #500!



Dear Jordan,

Despite the fact that you've probably been on the job for several months now, welcome to BATMAN, Jordan! What a time to join, with "Knightfall" starting up.

BATMAN #491 was quite simply an excellent issue. From the stunning cover, which is so good that I'm not surprised you used it for the "Knightfall" advertisements, to the actual issue, I was impressed. Your challenge to Doug and Jim has obviously been taken to heart, 'cause this and last issue were their best together yet!

It's interesting to see more parallels between Bane and Batman in this issue. Batman has always been called the most obsessive character, at least where justice is concerned, in comics today. Yet, it is Bane who insists, "I'll make it perfect," when he frees the Joker! Last month, we saw Bane use detective skills that were even better than those of "The World's Greatest Detective." It seems like every ability or facet of Batman is duplicated or improved upon by Bane, who is almost like a darker image of Batman. Or, rather, he is a darker image of what Batman could

have become had he been unable to shake off the effects of the Venom in LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT.

Batman, creatively at least, really is going where he never has before. Keep up the outstanding work—I know I won't be disappointed.

James Evans
Madison, WI

That was high praise, especially coming from you, James. When our regular letterhacks compliment our work, I know we are doing things right!

Since you mentioned them, James, I am curious to know what the rest of you think of the "Knightfall" house ads we have been running in DC comics every week! Let me know!



Dearest Jordan,

Well, you asked for more female Bat-fans, so here I am! You guys have been breaking my heart with the recent trials and tribulations of my favorite HERO. (After all, if Batman is not a HERO in capital letters, what is he?) In BATMAN #491, not only did you make my heart go out to the tormented man, your "be prepared" in your letter column literally filled me with consummate foreboding. If DC would kill off a supposedly invulnerable Superman, I shudder to think what they could do to an all-too-human Batman!

I also find, to my horror, that this announcement has filled me with a somewhat vulgar anticipation of the events to come. Perhaps it is akin to the strange fascination people seem to have with the macabre, much like the onlookers at the scene of a fatal

auto accident. Nevertheless, you can imagine my discomfort at this realization. Keep up the excellent work, lady and gentlemen!

On a lighter note, I LOVE Jean Paul's new 'do! Has Tim been to beauty school? Bruce has always been the captor of my heart, but after seeing Jean Paul in the push-up panel on page 14, Bruce may have some competition!

Until Marvel realizes their inferiority, I shall remain...

Dedicated to DC,
Mindy McGee
Springfield, MO

Thanks for heeding my call, dearest Mindy! In response to your implied queries:

1. Tim did a brief stint at beauty school in between the first two ROBIN miniseries. His failure to complete Rahul Lama's training in Paris, coupled with the realization that there was little chance of his becoming the fifth Beatie, is rumored to have had something to do with this.

2. It looks like your heart may not be the only broken thing around here!



Dear Misty Peterson and Gorfinkel,
You guys really scared me by letting Robin cut Jean Paul's hair after what Robin did to his own. It turned out well, though—sort of looks like a blond-haired Bruce Wayne!

Frosty the Snowboy
address withheld

The "do" was Tim's little way of saying to Bruce, thanks for everything you've done for me. And, hey, you should have seen how mad Paul was when, after waking up from a little snooze in the bat-barber chair, he discovered the little bat-symbol Tim shaved into the back of his hair!



Dear Editors,
You know, I'm not sure I like the direction you guys are taking the Dark Knight.

First, you give us Tim Drake, and finally make Robin more than just another of Batman's accessories. Then you bring the Huntress back and make her interesting. Then along comes Azrael, and now, Bane. Gotham's getting pretty crowded.

Batman's losing it. I take back what I said—I really love this new direction! Batman, after years of physical and mental punishment, is finally proving that he's just a man after all. Batman is one of the most self-confident characters in any medium, and starting with the return of Black Mask a few months back, we've seen Bruce face his greatest enemy: doubt. It's a fight he's been losing. It's a good thing Gotham's got three crime-fighters to take up the slack. Of course, they're all amateurs, but it's better than nothing.

First Superman, now Batman. Geez, you guys at DC are rough with your characters! Seriously, though,

the creative team on the Batman family of titles is the best in comics. From the covers to the stories and the artwork inside, nobody does it like Doug, Chuck, Alan, Norm, Jim and the rest. I know you guys at DC aren't into rampant exploitation, but with Superman gone, Batman is the sole contender for the title of DC's Greatest Hero. We should see an expansion of the Batman line, starting with a monthly ROBIN series.

Keep up the good work. If all goes well, though, things are going to get worse before they get better!

Mike Leonard
Cherry Tree, PA

Is September soon enough for the launch of a ROBIN monthly? If it is not, I am sure that ROBIN ANNUAL #2, out in July, plus Robin's regular appearances in BATMAN and TEC will help to tide you over!



Dear DC Comics,
I think Joker should have a father and his name should be Captain Clown.

Jason Pupillo
Wilmington, DE

I'll pass that along, Jason! Thanks for reading our books!



Dear Scott and Jordan (Alan and Hal?),

Re: BATMAN #491
Detective Bullock is an interesting character, but we shouldn't see him wolfing down victuals in every scene. The scenes where Commissioner Gordon was adjusting his glasses were great! As a longtime sporter of specs, I know that that adjustment is made innumerable times each day. The last three panels in the story, showing a weary Batman who has just seen his worst nightmare come true, are classic. I feel worse for him than for Lois Lane!

Thomas J. Takach
St. Petersburg, FL

Did Lois Lane lose a fight with Bane, too?



Dear Bat Dudes,
So...Big bad Bane in BATMAN #491 blew up bombs to break out all the boys with bats in their belfries. Bruce is bravely battling big odds, but because he is black and blue and almost broken at the moment, he must be a bit bananas to keep on bashing bad guys with bazookas.

The bird with the bursting balloon was a brilliant Bane battle plan, and Bruce could be in a big briar bush of trouble if Bats doesn't move his butt.

Or my name isn't Bruce!
Bruce Russell
Sherwood, Queensland, Australia

P.S. Brilliant Batman book!

BAT-WINKS:

• Thanks to Mel Beatty (address withheld) for supplying us with his designs for a Bat-signal ring, which he describes as "a communicator, a tracker, a danger signal and a fashion statement!"

• To C. Johnson of North Carolina, SFC Patrick O'Kelley of Clarksville, TN and everyone else whose thought-provoking letters about BATMAN: SEDUCTION OF THE GUN—which you all have read, right?—arrived too late for printing: I believe the points you raised were adequately covered by other letters which did see print.

• To Joey Marchese: I do indeed feel "lucky to inherit the Batman titles" for they are, as you wrote, "some of DC's best!"

• To point out that our continuity has been a little nebulous for the past year, Trent Revis, Vashon, WA, sent us a painstakingly compiled list of all the past year's Batman stories in which he tried to place them in chronological order. With "Knightfall," Trent, we have made every effort to be extremely tight and straightforward with our continuity. Let me know what you think.

MTGGLF,

Jordan B. Gorfinkel

—Very thankful for what he has.

NEXT WEEK, IN DETECTIVE, Alfred, Azrael and Robin race to save Batman's life. Even if they recover his body, can they ever recover his spirit? It's absolutely the most moving Batman story ever told in DETECTIVE COMICS #663, *Knightfall Part 12*, by Chuck Dixon, Graham Nolan and Scott Hanna. Then:

NEXT WEEK AND THE FOLLOWING WEEK: Batman, in a coma, relives his pre-Bane battle to recapture Two-Face. It's twice the fun for two weeks with SHOWCASE '93 #7-8, *Knightfall Parts 13-14*, by Doug Moench and Klaus "The Dark Knight Returns" Janson!

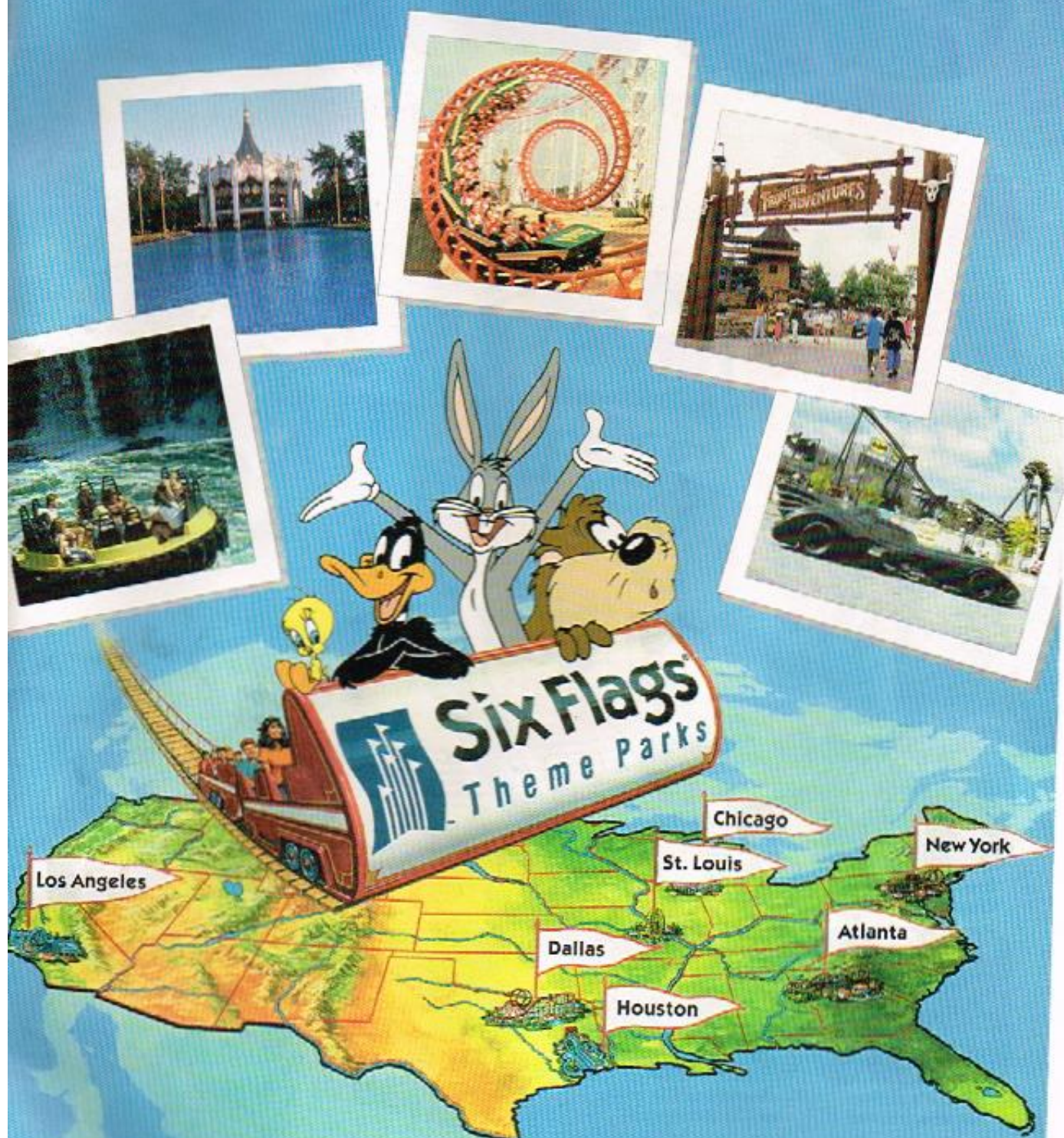
ALSO IN TWO WEEKS: Bane rules Gotham. Gotham's confidence fell with the Dark Knight. Someone must rise to challenge Bane's rule! Can the Batman return? And how does Catwoman figure in Bane's plans? It's terror in Gotham-town in BATMAN #498, *Knightfall Part 15*, by Doug Moench, Jim Aparo and special guest "Aparo Inker" Rick Burchett of JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA and BATMAN ADVENTURES fame!



COVER CREDITS: Kelley Jones drew it, Bob LeRose colored it, and Curtis King put it all together.

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